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1. A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a MAC (Medium Access Control) layer of an Ethernet to be transmitted to a switch, the method comprising the steps of:

storing an incoming packet in a memory for a subsequent retrieval;  
detecting error while receiving the packet from the physical layer;  
upon failure to detect the error, transmitting the received packet to the switch; and,  
upon detection of the error, stopping the transmission of the received packet to the switch and the storage of the incoming packet.

2. A method for processing a packet received from a physical layer by a MAC layer of an Ethernet, wherein the received packet is stored in a memory for an eventual transmission to a switch, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a packet from the physical layer and storing the received packet in the memory;  
detecting for error while receiving the packet;  
upon detection of the error, stopping the storage of the received packet in the memory and the transmission of the received packet to the switch; and,  
transmitting a first signal indicating an occurrence of the error and a second signal indicating an end of the received packet to the switch.

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